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MEMORANDUM FOR: Deputy Director for Support

SUBJECT : Country Seminars

REFERENCE: Memo to DD/P, DD/I, D/ONE from ExDir-

Compt, dtd 27 July 72, same subj.

- 1. The proposal by Mr. Colby to institutionalize exchange and discussion among DDI, DDP, and ONE country experts is similar to one of the suggestions I submitted prior to my becoming DTR. Such a move should be of advantage in capitalizing on the extensive yet dispersed knowledge that exists within the Agency while at the same time fostering closer working relationships among representatives of the several components.
- 2. Assuming that DD/P, DD/I, and D'ONE agree this is a desirable undertaking, OTR could take the lead in organizing the seminars and providing the necessary facilities. We could also arrange for the limited participation of experts from outside the Agency if that should be desired. Our own in-depth country expertise is limited at the present time, but this should not act as a significant deterrent to organizing such seminars. I would be glad to have explore this matter with representatives of the components participating. I should think that once their agreement is obtained we can proceed with specific steps to achieve Mr. Colby's objectives.

HUGH T. CUNNINGHAM

Director of Training

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27 July 1972

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MEMORANDUM FOR: Deputy Director for Plans

Deputy Director for Intelligence Director of National Estimates

SUBJECT:

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Country Seminars

- 1. In a recent conversation I was reminded that the expertise in the Agency on various countries is considerable, but that it is frequently compartmented so that our synergistic potential is not realized. Our analysts gather all material available in written form and add to this by informal contact with a variety of individuals with personal experience in the area. The suggestion was that they might be assisted by a comewhat more formal system of ensuring their access to the expertise available in the Agency from people who have served in these countries.
- 2. Thus, the suggestion was that we organize occasional seminars on specified countries. A seminar on India, for example, might include representatives of OCI, OER, ONE, DDP/NE, CRS (biographic), and others who might be concerned. The purpose would be an interchange of ideas and appreciation among different individuals focusing on the same topic.
- 3. An agenda for such a seminar should be generated in advance so that its Chairman could maintain control and ensure that it focused on matters of importance. It could include a general naview of reporting on the country, recent events, significant political developments and leadership personalities and a projection of likely developments in the country in the near term. Obviously, such a seminar should not involve too many people in order to encourage informal exchange, and no attempt should be made to come to hard-hast decisions nor to expect the individuals to speak only as officially authorized by their office. The discussion should be on the



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substance of developments in the country and avoid operational activities or recommendations for U.S. policy or action. Such a seminar might be conducted in the building or

A classification level should be established, probably at the Secret level, so that there need be no confusion or concern about revelation of particularly sensitive material. After an experience with an internal CIA activity of this nature, it might be appropriate to broaden participation to include other members of the intelligence community, although this would have to be looked at with due deference to security and bureaucratic implications.

4. I realize that a certain amount of this goes on in any case. What I am suggesting is a somewhat greater institutionalization in order to increase informal exchange and discussion of our target areas. I would appreciate your review and comments on this possibility. The autumn would appear to be a useful time to do this to catch recent returnees from Stations.

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W. E. Colby
Executive Director-Comptroller

cc: DD/S&T DD/S

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27 July 1972

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WEC

W. E. Colby
Executive Director-Comptroller

cc: DD/S&T
DD/S

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